(घ) क्या सरकार दक्षिणी बिहार के उपरोक्त जिलों में स्थित सरकारी और निजी क्षेत्र के उद्योगों के लिये राष्ट्रीय ताप विद्युत निगम के माध्यम से प्रतिदिन 600 मेगावाट बिजली उपलब्ध कराने की व्यवस्था करने का विचार रखती है;

(ङ) क्या बिहार के कहलगांव में निर्माणाधीन विद्युत संयंत्र का निर्माण कार्य 1993 तक पूरा हो जाने की संभावना है; और

(च) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार बिहार के झारखण्ड क्षेत्र के लिये प्रति दिन 600 मेगावाट बिजली उपलब्ध कराने का विचार रखती है?

विद्युत मंत्री (श्री एन०के० पी० साल्वे) : (क) जी, हां।

(ख) जी, हां।

(ग) जी, नहीं।

(घ) बिहार राज्य बिजली बोर्ड, राष्ट्रीय ताप विद्युत निगम और चुखा जल विद्युत केन्द्र से 300 मे.वा. और 400 मे०वा० के बीच पहले से ही विद्युत प्राप्त कर रहा है। इसके अलावा दामोदर घाटी निगम, खदानों और रेलवे समेत उच्च बोल्टता उपभोक्ताओं को लगभग 200 मे. वा. विद्युत सीधे ही सप्लाई कर रहा है। यह विद्युत तथा अपने स्रोतों से उत्पादित विद्युत को सार्वजनिक और निजी क्षेत्रों के उद्योग एवं अन्य श्रेणी के उपभोक्ताओं को उपलब्ध कराई जाती है।

(ङ) राष्ट्रीय ताप विद्युत निगम का भागलपुर जिले में कहलगांव अवस्थित ताप विद्युत केन्द्र के 21 मेगावाट के एक यूनिट को इस वर्ष के अन्त तक चालू किये जाने की आशा है।

(च) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Rise in Inflation Rate

*76. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM.

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the provisional data on wholesale prices the inflation rate has jumped upto 7.9 per cent for week ending October 30;

(b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is Government's reaction to this rising trend of the inflation rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c) The inflation rate of 7.9% reached on 30th October was due to sharp rise in primary commodities of 10.6% since March, which was almost double the rate of last year for the corresponding period. Details of the price increase by commodity groups is shown in the attached Table. An important factor underlying the rate of inflation is the fiscal deficit which has widened in the current year. Other factors contributing to the pressure on prices is the sharp increase in minimum support prices for rice, wheat and sugarcane. There has also been speculative increase in edible oils and rice in August due to prolonged dry spell. The truckers strike twice in the year also cause disruption in movement of essential goods and industrial raw materials. The Government remains concerned about the uptrend in prices and will take whatever corrective measures are necessary. Steps taken in the current year include increased allocations for the

PDS, open market sale of wheat by FCI to curb speculative increases in prices, higher releases of sugar for the open market, import of one lakh tonne of edible oils and reducing stock limits for edible oil by 50 per cent during the festival season.

		Inflation rate as on Oct. 30		
		Annual rate 1993-94	% change 1993	over March 1992
	All Commodities	7.9	7.7	6.8
I.	Primary articles	8.1	10.6	5.4
	Food articles	7.3	10.2	8.3
	Food grains	10.9	11.5	—1.4
	Rice	9.4	12.7	2.9
	Wheat	13.5	6.0	—4.1
	Fruits & Vegetables	9.5	17.5	17.6
	Non food articles	7.8	10.2	7.0
II.	Fuel Power light & lubricants	13.2	8.1	10.0
III.	Manufactured Products	6.8	6.0	7.1
	Food Products	11.1	13.3	8.8
	Sugar	15.5	5.7	4.2
	Edible oils	—1.6	12.1	5.9

Self clearance of Excise

*77. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government allowed "self clearance" of excise on all goods;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the norms fixed for allowing self clearance by the Excise department.

THE MINISTER OF STATES IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Self-clearance, which is formally referred to as the "Self-Removal Procedure", is at present applicable to all excisable goods except (i) Cigarettes (ii) Mathes.

(b) Detailed procedure is built into Rules 173A to 173Q of the Central Excise Rules 144, the underlying principle being to do away with physical control on production and removal of excisable goods and instead, to rely on the records maintained by the producer|manufacturer.

(c) Items which are prone to duty evasion and which have high incidence of duty have been excluded from the facility of Self Removal Procedure.